



# OVERVIEW

## CBT ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM



*CBT recognizes that a healthy environment is important for all social and economic activities in the Columbia Basin.*

### STRENGTHENING THE ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY OF THE COLUMBIA BASIN

The Columbia Basin is home to an abundance of natural resources, critical habitats and diverse species. The spectacular natural surroundings and the associated opportunities and way of life are what draw visitors and inspire many to stay and reside in this region. CBT is engaging residents and communities in the long-term stewardship of our natural resources, and supporting them to take action to meet environmental challenges.

#### Environmental Vision

CBT will work towards a long-term vision for the future of the Basin, supporting the residents to ensure:

- A healthy environment creates a foundation for well-being; and
- There is commitment to long-term and enduring stewardship of the Basin's natural assets and sufficient ability to take action to meet environmental challenges.

#### Guiding Principles

Core values and organizational guiding principles direct CBT's overall approach to its work. In the Environmental Strategic Plan there are ten guiding principles that provide further definition and direction for actions CBT will undertake to implement this plan. To read these principles, visit [www.cbt.org/environment](http://www.cbt.org/environment).

#### Environmental Goals 2009-2012

CBT's environment goals until 2012 are:

- Strengthen Basin-wide ability to meet environmental challenges;
- Encourage education and awareness for all generations about Basin ecosystems and associated human interactions;
- Support positive environmental action within the Basin, leading where appropriate; and
- Promote an understanding of organizational activities which reduce environmental impacts in the Basin.

To read more about planned activities and desired outcomes of each goal, read CBT's Environmental Strategic Plan at [www.cbt.org/environment](http://www.cbt.org/environment).

## COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Basin residents expressed the importance of the environment to CBT early in its formation, and CBT continues to work with its Environmental Advisory Committee for input into this area. CBT has the following ongoing environment focussed programs and initiatives:

### Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP)

CBT's Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP) provides support to community-initiated and supported environmental projects that aim to reduce the impacts humans have on local and regional ecosystems.

- **EIP Granting** – Funding for environmental projects in the Basin which address or aim to reduce the impacts humans have on ecosystems in the Basin through education, stewardship, conservation and/or restoration.
- **Stewardship Advisors** – Advisors who provide proponents with technical information during project development and implementation. Advisors focus on promoting stewardship and fostering collaboration between communities, groups and regulatory agencies.

### Environmental Education

CBT supports two major environmental education programs across the Columbia Basin.

- **Education in the Wild Program** – CBT is a founding and continuing supporter of a school-based, ecosystem awareness program, delivered by Wildsight, that supports teachers to deliver hands-on, outdoor learning opportunities for students. To learn more visit [www.wildsight.ca/education](http://www.wildsight.ca/education).
- **Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network** – CBT initially facilitated and continues to support the evolution of this umbrella network, which fosters environmental education initiatives, stewardship and sustainability in the Basin through a diverse membership of environmental educators and organizations. To learn more about CBEEN visit [www.cbeen.org](http://www.cbeen.org).

### Land Conservation Strategy

Through consultation with Basin residents and the development of the Columbia Basin Management Plan, CBT has committed to long-term and enduring stewardship of the Basin's natural resources. CBT's land conservation and related initiatives strive to achieve a balance between conservation and economic development in order to sustain the way of life and natural surroundings which currently exist.

- **Land Conservation Initiative** – Provides funding toward community-supported, multi-stakeholder land conservation efforts, which will assist in maintaining a range of community values on lands in the Basin.
- **East Kootenay Conservation Program** – CBT supports this partnership to promote habitat and ecosystem management for land conservation, while balancing social and economic needs. To learn more visit [www.ekcp.ca](http://www.ekcp.ca).

### Columbia Basin Bear Aware Program

Through a partnership with BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF), Bear Aware programs will be offered in 10 Basin communities including Castlegar, Elk Valley (Elkford and Sparwood), Fernie, Golden, Kaslo, Kimberley, Nelson, and the rural areas between Salmo, Creston and Cranbrook. This program will assist communities with providing educational tools and information to residents that will look to decrease bear/human conflict. To learn more about BCCF visit [www.bearaware.bc.ca](http://www.bearaware.bc.ca).



*CBT supports projects that are making a difference in Basin communities; CBT is your community partner in environmental stewardship.*

*Page one header:*

**Paddlers enjoy the Slocan Lake, located in Valhalla Provincial Park.**

*Page one left:*

**A CBT supported Education in the Wild program in action.**

*Above:*

**The Northern Leopard Frog, one of many interesting species that make the Basin their home.**



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